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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dahlia

KIT GARDEN  
Springfield  
Massachusetts  
1931



# Kit Garden Dahlias

Mail Address—

MRS. E. H. KITSON

9 IRVINGTON STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Garden at

CRESCENT LAKE

2½ miles South of

East Longmeadow

On the Shaker Road

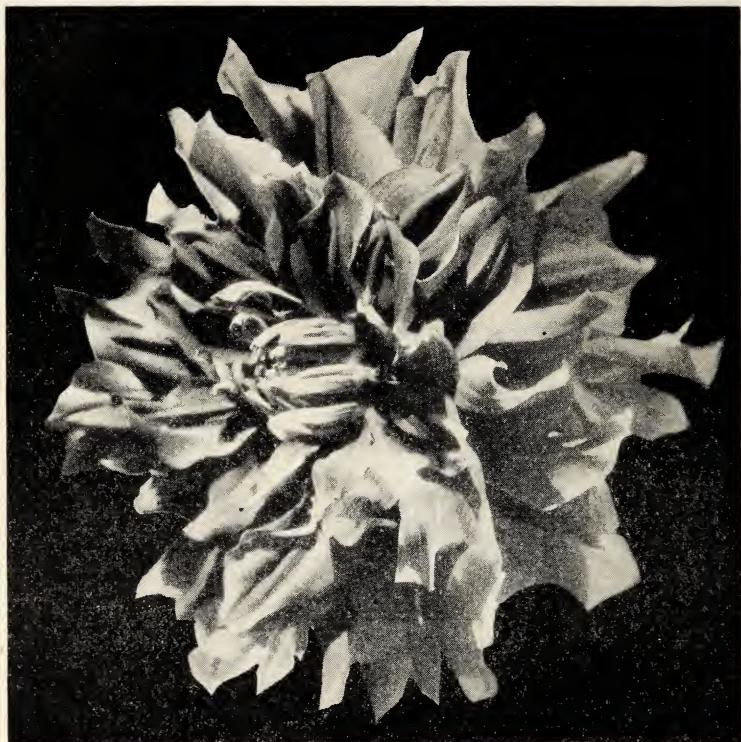
**Order Early**—Your selection of varieties will be reserved upon receipt of your order and shipment made about May 1st, unless otherwise requested.

**Terms**—Remittance with order.

**Our Stock** is carefully selected and packed to reach you in good growing condition, and is true to name. Any error reported to us will be cheerfully adjusted.

Member of  
American Dahlia Society  
Dahlia Society of New England





**BARBARA KITSON** (Kit Garden)—*Informal Decorative*

Approaching the garden, this dahlia gives the impression of orange tone, a color produced by a rich cream overlaid and blended with bright red. Size of blooms average 7"-8"; stem thick and strong, holding the bloom facing straight out. Prolific bloomer and splendid cut flower.

(First year, 1926. Seed parent, EL DORADO.)

Stock limited. Roots only  
\$5.00 Net.



**ELLA THATCHER** (Kit Garden)—*Formal Decorative*

This dahlia was named for Miss Ella Thatcher, daughter of Mr. W. H. Thatcher of North Adams, Mass. The color is soft canary yellow painted with rose-pink. Reverse is deeper rose. Size of blooms average 9". Bushy plant, needs pruning, and should be planted early where seasons are short.

(First year, 1926. Mixed seed.)

Roots \$2.00.





**HAZEL X** (Kit Garden)—*Formal Decorative*

This dahlia is a clear bright yellow of uniform color with no shading. Size of blooms average 9"-10"; stem straight and strong. (First year, 1926. Seed parent, SUNNY SOUTH.)

Stock limited.    Roots only  
\$5.00 Net.



# Field-grown Roots



<b>ALICE WHITTIER</b> — <i>Semi-Cactus</i>	
Light primrose yellow, outer petals sharply quilled . . .	\$1.50
<b>AMBASSADOR</b> — <i>Cactus</i>	
Soft yellow center shading to amber pink on outer petals. . . . .	1.00
<b>ANDREAS HOFER</b> — <i>Cactus</i>	
Bright pink with cream center. . . . .	1.50
<b>BARBARA REDFERN</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Gold and old rose. . . . .	1.50
<b>BROCKTON BEAUTY</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Pale lavender shading to white center. . . . .	1.50
<b>CARONA</b> — <i>Cactus</i>	
Lemon yellow . . . . .	1.50
<b>CHEMAR'S 2496</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Rich dark red, very large. . . . .	3.00
<b>CHEMAR'S MASTERPIECE</b> — <i>Cactus</i>	
Deep orchid pink. . . . .	3.50
<b>CORA BUTTERWORTH</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Clear silvery primrose yellow. . . . .	7.50
<b>COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Rose suffused gold. . . . .	2.00
<b>COQUETTE</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Red blended with gold, shading to sunset colors on the tips. . . . .	3.00
<b>DR. JOHN H. CARMAN</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Rose-petunia, tipped with silver. Immense size. . . .	5.00
<b>EDNA FERBER</b> — <i>Semi-Cactus</i>	
Glistening coral shading to gold at base of petals. . . .	2.00
<b>ELITE GLORY</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Brilliant rich red. A great exhibition dahlia in 'largest bloom' class. . . . .	1.00
<b>ELIZA CLARK BULL</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
White. . . . .	2.00
<b>FORT MONMOUTH</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Brilliant violet maroon. . . . .	3.50

<b>GOLDENE SONNE</b> — <i>Cactus</i>	
Canary yellow blending to pale gold on outer petals . .	\$2.50
<b>GOV. ALVAN T. FULLER</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Tyrian rose. ....	3.00
<b>HARRY MAYER</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Rosy lavender with deeper toned reverse. ....	1.50
<b>IDA PERKINS</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
White. ....	2.50
<b>ISABELLE JEAN</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
"Peaches and Cream." A small dahlia that is excep- tionally good for cut flower use. ....	1.00
<b>JANE COWL</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Glistening bronzy buff and old gold, reverse of petals pale pink. An immense dahlia that's hard to beat....	2.00
<b>JERSEY'S BEACON</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Chinese scarlet, reverse tan. ....	1.00
<b>JERSEY'S BEAUTY</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
True pink. ....	1.00
<b>JERSEY'S EMPRESS</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Deep violet. ....	1.00
<b>JERSEY'S IDEAL</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Lavender. ....	1.50
<b>JUNE JUSTICE</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Brilliant purple. ....	5.00
<b>KEMP'S VIOLET WONDER</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Violet. One of the big ones. ....	4.00
<b>KING TUT</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Rich crimson-burgundy. ....	1.00
<b>MARGARET WOODROW WILSON</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Opalescent pink, reverse phlox pink. ....	1.00
<b>MARMION</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Bronzy yellow. A big one. ....	1.00
<b>MINNIE EASTMAN</b> — <i>Semi-Cactus</i>	
Flame, undershading of yellow. ....	5.00
<b>MRS. EMILIE H. KITSON</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Orange-salmon. ....	5.00
<b>MRS. I. de VER WARNER</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Deep mauve-pink. ....	1.00
<b>MRS. SHIRLEY SHAW</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Oxblood red shaded maroon. ....	3.50

<b>NANAQUAKET</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Lavender-pink.....	\$3.00
<b>POLAR SNOW</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Snow white.....	1.00
<b>POP STEWART</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Clear light lavender. Uniform in color and formation. Large.....	1.50
<b>PRIDE OF STRATFORD</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Golden orange, reverse rose.....	1.00
<b>RISING MARS</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Garnet red.....	3.00
<b>R. T. EDWARDS</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Lavender-pink, reverse plum.....	1.50
<b>ROBERT TREAT</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
American-beauty rose.....	1.00
<b>ROSE FALLON</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Old gold. A big one.....	1.00
<b>SANHICAN BEAUTY</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Pink of orange tone, a rare color.....	3.50
<b>SANHICAN MAGNATE</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Amaranth-pink tinged deeper, reverse solid claret....	1.00
<b>SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Deep velvety American-beauty rose.....	3.50
<b>SPOTTSWOOD BEAUTY</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Soft pink, lemon at base of petals.....	2.50
<b>STAR OF BETHLEHEM</b> — <i>Cactus</i>	
Pure white. New.....	7.50
<b>WHITE EMPRESS</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
White. Free bloomer.....	3.50
<b>W. J. ERWIN</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i> *	
Deep lavender. Large.....	1.50

#### **POMPONS**

Assorted colors: \$4.00 per dozen, \$2.00 per six.

#### **COLLECTIONS**

Our selection of varieties:

6 dahlias, all different, for \$5.00 (from the dollar class)

6 dahlias, all different, for \$8.00 (from the higher prices)

8 dahlias "Celebrities" for \$10.00

OR

These three collections complete for \$20.00

Our collections will give worth-while value and colorful variety.

*It is our desire and aim to give a feeling of satisfaction in every sale.*

# *Growing the Dahlia*



## **PLANTING.**

As early in the Spring as the soil can be worked, plow or spade the garden and leave it in the rough. About two weeks before planting spread a good coating of Hydrated Lime and harrow or rake in. At planting time mark off rows so that the plants will stand at least three feet apart. Set a stake at the head of the row of each variety and attach the name tag.

Lay the Dahlia root flat with the sprout pointing up and six inches deep. Fill in the hole for about four inches and firm the soil but do not pack. As the plant grows, fill in the hole until the ground is level.

## **CUT-WORMS.**

Following are three methods for clearing out the cut-worms.

Poison Bran may be used and it will surely kill them if they get it before they have a chance to acquire a taste for green stuff. It must be spread about a week after the plowing and should be put out after sundown, to be in readiness for their very early breakfast.

Or cuffs of cardboard may be set surrounding the space where the sprout will come up. Cuffs should be removed after the cut-worm season has passed.

Or a solution of EVERGREEN may be used to soak the soil around each planting. It has a smothering effect on the worm and he struggles above ground for air, and promptly "turns up his toes."

## **FERTILIZER.**

If fertilizer is placed in the hole at the time of planting, more harm than good is liable to follow. The new, tender young roots coming in direct contact with the fertilizer are apt to be burned and induce a runty growth of the plant. After the planting has been completed, broadcast the fertilizer alongside the rows—

out where the long feeding roots will reach for it as the plant grows—and rake it in. By the time the roots reach the fertilizer it will have become well mixed into the soil by successive cultivating, and the roots will have passed their babyhood and be ready for the added food.

Commercial fertilizer of a formula that is light in Nitrate content is best for Dahlias. They need more of Phosphate and Potash. Sheep fertilizer should not be used early in the season but is a good tonic when buds are forming. Broadcast and raked in at that time, it will pep up the plants and improve the blooms.

## **CULTIVATION.**

Keep the garden well cultivated throughout the season. This is important. A packed soil retards the development of both plant and root, and a hard surface allows the sun to draw out the moisture from below. After a rain as soon as the soil drains, break up the surface before the sun bakes it into a crust. Weeds rob the soil of moisture; keep them out.

## **PRUNING.**

When the plants have three pairs of leaves, pinch out the center of the plant. This will induce vigorous branching and will make a low bush that will be less liable to blow over in a storm. And more particularly, this method gives more and better blooms.

## **DISBUDDING.**

When the branches have set their terminal buds, disbud all but one of each cluster, leaving the strongest one. Remove the side shoots in the leaf crotches for two or three pairs of leaves below the terminal. This will give a long stem when the bloom is ready to cut, and the remaining shoots below will soon mature to buds in turn.

Disbudding naturally brings added size to the blooms, but there is further reason for the disbudding. For use as a cut flower the Dahlia bloom must be mature. If cut in bud it wilts very soon. Now the three buds of a cluster, not disbudded, will open at three separate



times, the center one first and each of the side ones following in turn. And the stem of the center one is usually much shorter than the others. It is obviously unsatisfactory to try to use the blooms in natural spray or cluster form. Much better, then, to disbud while the buds are tiny and bring the one bloom to perfection on a good stem. And the succeeding buds, if handled the same way, will give as fine blooms right through the season as the first one.

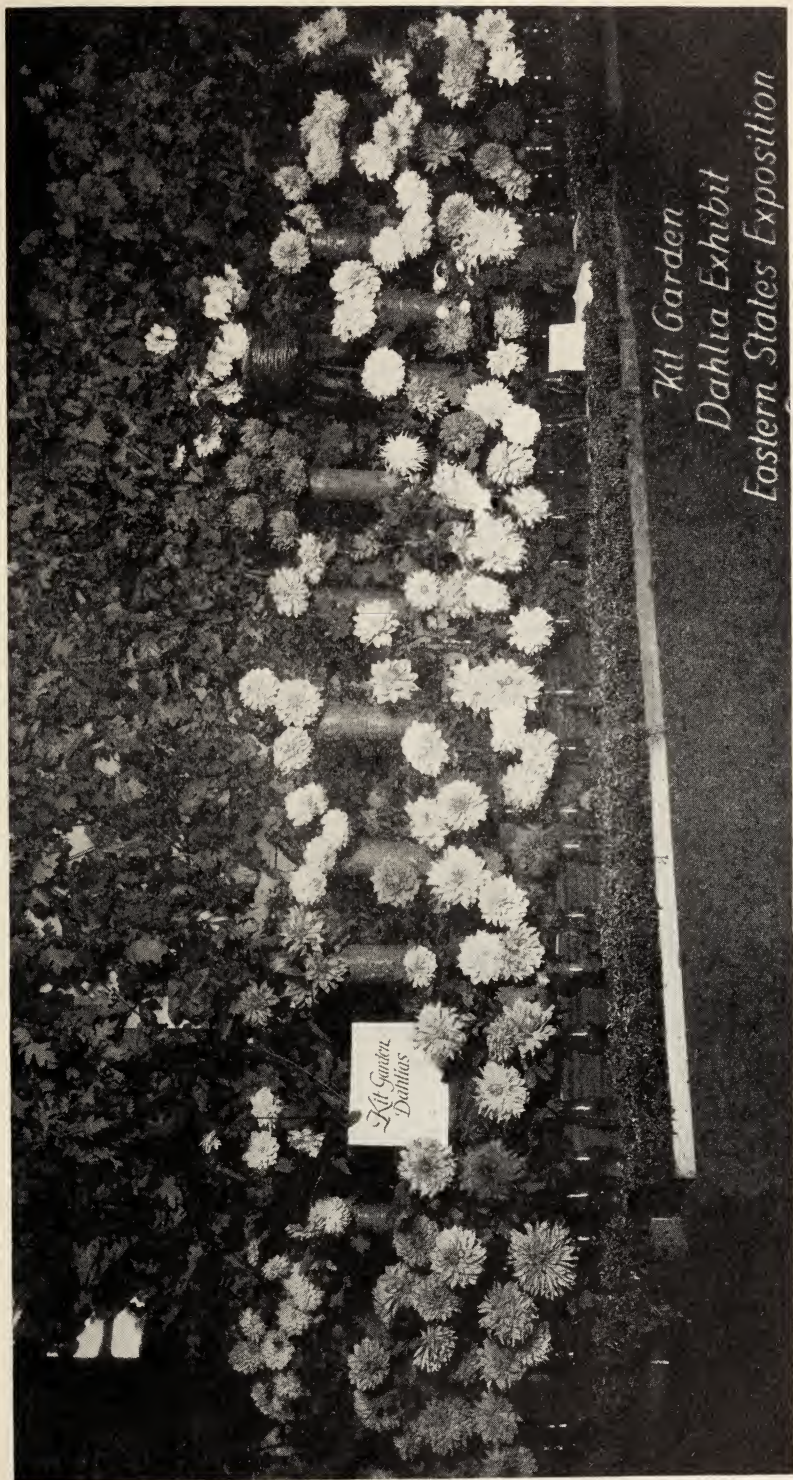
### **DIGGING.**

In the Fall, when frost has killed the foliage, let the plants stand for about a week, then cut off the bushes at the ground and dig. Using a square-edged spade, cut a wide circle around the plant to sever the long anchor roots. Then heave gently until the clump is free. Turn it upside down and let it lie in the sun for an hour or two to dry, but take inside before night-fall.

### **STORING.**

Store in a cool cellar or room that can be kept at 40-50 degrees temperature during cold weather and that can be ventilated in mild weather. It is well to look over the stock during the winter to see that the roots are in good condition. If spots of rot appear, cut away and dust the roots with sulphur.





*Kit Garden  
Dahlia Exhibit  
Eastern States Exposition*

You are cordially invited to visit Kit  
Garden, located at Crescent  
Lake,—on the Shaker Road,—  
two and a half miles south of  
East Longmeadow, Mass.



